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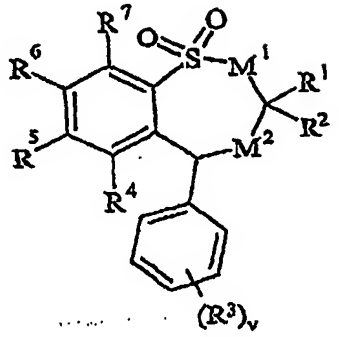
Claims

1. A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein

M^1 is $-CH_2-$ or $-NR^{21}-$;

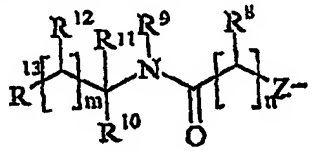
M^2 is $-CR^{22}R^{23}-$ or $-NR^{24}-$; provided that if M^1 is $-NR^{21}-$, M^2 is $-CR^{22}R^{23}-$;

One of R^1 and R^2 are selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl or C_{2-6}alkenyl and the other is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl or C_{2-6}alkenyl;

R^3 is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkanoyl, C_{1-6}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-6}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-6}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-6}alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)sulphamoyl and *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl;

v is 0-5;

one of R^5 and R^6 is a group of formula (IA):



(IA)

R^4 and R^7 and the other of R^5 and R^6 are independently selected from hydrogen, halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-4}alkenyl, C_{2-4}alkynyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, C_{1-4}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-4}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-4}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl,

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N-(C_{1-4}alkyl)sulphamoyl and *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl; wherein R^4 and R^7 and the other of R^5 and R^6 may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R^{25};

Z is -O-, -N(R^a)-, -S(O)$_b$- or -CH(R^a)-; wherein R^a is hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl and b is 0-2;

R^8 is hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, carbocyclyl or heterocyclyl; wherein R^8 may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more substituents selected from R^{26}; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- group, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R^{27};

R^9 is hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl;

R^{10} and R^{11} are independently selected from hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, carbocyclyl or heterocyclyl; or R^{10} and R^{11} together form C_{2-6}alkylene; wherein R^{10} and R^{11} or R^{10} and R^{11} together may be independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more substituents selected from R^{28}; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by one or more R^{29};

R^{12} is hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, carbocyclyl or heterocyclyl; wherein R^{12} may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more substituents selected from R^{30}; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by one or more R^{31};

R^{13} is hydrogen, halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, hydroxyaminocarbonyl, C_{1-10}alkyl, C_{2-10}alkenyl, C_{2-10}alkynyl, C_{1-10}alkoxy, C_{1-10}alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-10}alkanoyl, C_{1-10}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$amino, *N,N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_3$ammonio, C_{1-10}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-10}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)sulphamoylamino, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoylamino, C_{1-10}alkoxycarbonylamino, carbocyclyl, carbocyclylC_{1-10}alkyl, heterocyclic group, heterocyclylC_{1-10}alkyl, carbocyclyl-(C_{1-10}alkylene)$_e$-R^{32}-(C_{1-10}alkylene)$_f$- or heterocyclyl-(C_{1-10}alkylene)$_g$-R^{33}-(C_{1-10}alkylene)$_h$-; wherein R^{13} may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more substituents selected from R^{36}; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- group, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R^{37}; or R^{13} is a group of formula (IB):

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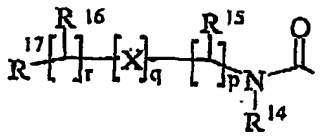

(IB)

wherein:

X is $-N(R^{38})-$, $-N(R^{38})C(O)-$, $-O-$, and $-S(O)_a-$; wherein a is 0-2 and R^{38} is hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl;

R^{14} is hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl;

R^{15} and R^{16} are independently selected from hydrogen, halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkanoyl, C_{1-6}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-6}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-6}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-6}alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, carbocyclyl or heterocyclic group; wherein R^{15} and R^{16} may be independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more substituents selected from R^{41}; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- group, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R^{42};

R^{17} is selected from hydrogen, halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, hydroxyaminocarbonyl, C_{1-10}alkyl, C_{2-10}alkenyl, C_{2-10}alkynyl, C_{1-10}alkoxy, C_{1-10}alkanoyl, C_{1-10}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-10}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)carbamoyl, C_{1-10}alkoxycarbonyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-10}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)sulphamoylamino, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoylamino, carbocyclyl, carbocyclylC_{1-10}alkyl, heterocyclic group, heterocyclylC_{1-10}alkyl, carbocyclyl-(C_{1-10}alkylene)$_e$-R^{43}-(C_{1-10}alkylene)$_f$- or heterocyclyl-(C_{1-10}alkylene)$_g$-R^{44}-(C_{1-10}alkylene)$_h$-; wherein R^{17} may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more substituents selected from R^{47}; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- group, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R^{48}; or R^{17} is a group of formula (*IC*):

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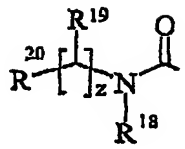

(IC)

wherein:

R^{18} is selected from hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl;

R^{19} is selected from hydrogen, halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkanoyl, C_{1-6}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-6}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-6}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-6}alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, carbocyclyl or heterocyclic group; where R^{19} may be independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more substituents selected from R^{51}; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- group, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R^{52};

R^{20} is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, hydroxyaminocarbonyl, C_{1-10}alkyl, C_{2-10}alkenyl, C_{2-10}alkynyl, C_{1-10}alkoxy, C_{1-10}alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-10}alkanoyl, C_{1-10}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$amino, *N,N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_3$ammonio, C_{1-10}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-10}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)sulphamoylamino, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoylamino, C_{1-10}alkoxycarbonylamino, carbocyclyl, carbocyclylC_{1-10}alkyl, heterocyclic group, heterocyclylC_{1-10}alkyl, carbocyclyl-(C_{1-10}alkylene)$_e$-R^{53}-(C_{1-10}alkylene)$_f$- or heterocyclyl-(C_{1-10}alkylene)$_g$-R^{54}-(C_{1-10}alkylene)$_h$-; wherein R^{20} may be independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R^{57}; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- group, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R^{58};

p is 1-3; wherein the values of R^{15} may be the same or different;

q is 0-1;

r is 0-3; wherein the values of R^{16} may be the same or different;

m is 0-2; wherein the values of R^{12} may be the same or different;

n is 1-2; wherein the values of R^{8} may be the same or different;

z is 0-3; wherein the values of R^{10} may be the same or different;

R^{21} is selected from hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl;

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R^{22} and R^{23} are independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, amino, mercapto, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-6}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2;

R^{24} is selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy and C_{1-6}alkanoyloxy;

R^{25} is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-4}alkenyl, C_{2-4}alkynyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, C_{1-4}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-4}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-4}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)sulphamoyl and *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl; wherein R^{25}, may be independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R^{67};

R^{26}, R^{28}, R^{30}, R^{36}, R^{41}, R^{47}, R^{51} and R^{57} are independently selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, hydroxyaminocarbonyl, C_{1-10}alkyl, C_{2-10}alkenyl, C_{2-10}alkynyl, C_{1-10}alkoxy, C_{1-10}alkanoyl, C_{1-10}alkanoyloxy, C_{1-10}alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$amino, *N,N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_3$ammonio, C_{1-10}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-10}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)sulphamoylamino, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoylamino, C_{1-10}alkoxycarbonylamino, carbocyclyl, carbocyclylC_{1-10}alkyl, heterocyclic group, heterocyclylC_{1-10}alkyl, carbocyclyl-(C_{1-10}alkylene)$_b$-R^{59}-(C_{1-10}alkylene)$_c$- or heterocyclyl-(C_{1-10}alkylene)$_g$-R^{60}-(C_{1-10}alkylene)$_h$-; wherein R^{26}, R^{28}, R^{30}, R^{36}, R^{41}, R^{47}, R^{51} and R^{57} may be independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R^{63}; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- group, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R^{64};

R^{27}, R^{29}, R^{31}, R^{37}, R^{42}, R^{48}, R^{52}, R^{58} and R^{64} are independently selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkanoyl, C_{1-6}alkylsulphonyl, sulphamoyl, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, C_{1-6}alkoxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, benzyl, phenethyl, benzoyl, phenylsulphonyl and phenyl;

R^{32}, R^{33}, R^{43}, R^{44}, R^{53}, R^{54}, R^{59} and $R^{60}$are independently selected from -O-, -NR^{65}-, -S(O)$_x$-, -NR^{65}C(O)NR^{66}-, -NR^{65}C(S)NR^{66}-, -OC(O)N=C-, -NR^{65}C(O)- or -C(O)NR^{65}-; wherein R^{65} and R^{66} are independently selected from hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl, and x is 0-2;

R^{63} and R^{67} re independently selected from halo, hydroxy, cyano, carbamoyl, ureido, amino, nitro, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, vinyl, allyl, ethynyl, methoxycarbonyl, formyl, acetyl, formamido,

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acetylamino, acetoxy, methylamino, dimethylamino, *N*-methylcarbamoyl, *N,N*-dimethylcarbamoyl, methylthio, methylsulphinyl, mesyl, *N*-methylsulphamoyl and *N,N*-dimethylsulphamoyl; and

e, f, g and h are independently selected from 0-2;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, solvate of such a salt or a prodrug thereof; with the proviso that said compound is not:

1,1-dioxo-3-isopropyl-5-phenyl-8-[*N*-(propyl)carbamoylmethoxy]-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1,4-benzothiazepine; or

1,1-dioxo-3-isopropyl-5-phenyl-7-iodo-8-[*N*-(propyl)carbamoylmethoxy]-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1,4-benzothiazepine.

2. A compound of formula (I) according to claim 1 wherein M^1 is $-CH_2-$ and M^2 is $-CR^{22}R^{23}-$; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, solvate of such a salt or a prodrug thereof.

3. A compound of formula (I) according to claim 1 wherein M^1 is $-CH_2-$ and M^2 is $-NR^{24}-$; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, solvate of such a salt or a prodrug thereof.

4. A compound of formula (I) according to claim 1 or 2 wherein R^{22} and R^{23} are independently selected from hydrogen and hydroxy; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, solvate of such a salt or a prodrug thereof.

5. A compound of formula (I) according to claim 1 or 3 wherein R^{24} is hydrogen; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, solvate of such a salt or a prodrug thereof.

6. A compound of formula (I) according to any one of claims 1-5 wherein R^1 and R^2 are C_{1-4}alkyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, solvate of such a salt or a prodrug thereof.

7. A compound of formula (I) according to any one of claims 1-6 wherein v is 0; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, solvate of such a salt or a prodrug thereof.

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8. A compound of formula (I) according to any one of claims 1-7 wherein R^4 and R^7 are hydrogen; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, solvate of such a salt or a prodrug thereof.

9. A compound of formula (I) according to any one of claims 1-8 wherein the R^5 or R^6 not selected from a group of formula (IA) is hydrogen or methylthio; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, solvate of such a salt or a prodrug thereof.

10. A compound of formula (I) according to any one of claims 1-9 wherein one of R^5 and R^6 is a group of formula (IA) (as depicted above); wherein:

Z is -O- or -$S(O)_b$-; wherein b is 0;

R^8 is hydrogen;

R^9 is hydrogen;

R^{10} and R^{11} are independently selected from hydrogen or carbocyclyl; wherein R^{10} and R^{11} may be independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more substituents selected from R^{28};

R^{13} is a group of formula (IB) (as depicted above);

R^{14} is hydrogen;

R^{15} is hydrogen;

R^{17} is C_{1-10}alkyl; wherein R^{17} may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more substituents selected from R^{47}; or R^{17} is a group of formula (IC) (as depicted above) wherein:

R^{18} is selected from hydrogen;

R^{19} is selected from hydrogen;

R^{20} is C_{1-10}alkyl; wherein R^{20} may be independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R^{57};

p is 1;

q is 0;

r is 0;

m is 0;

n is 1;

z is 1; and

R^{28}, R^{47} and R^{57} are independently selected from halo and hydroxy

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvato, solvate of such a salt or a prodrug thereof.

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11. A compound of formula (I) wherein:

M^1 is $-CH_2-$;

M^2 is $-CR^{22}R^{23}-$ and $-NR^{24}-$;

R^{22} and R^{23} are independently selected from hydrogen and hydroxy;

One of R^1 and R^2 is ethyl and the other is butyl;

v is 0;

R^4 and R^7 are hydrogen;

One of R^5 or R^6 is selected from a group of formula (IA) (as depicted above) and the other is hydrogen or methylthio;

Z is -O- or $-S(O)_b-$; wherein b is 0;

R^8 is hydrogen;

R^9 is hydrogen;

R^{10} and R^{11} are independently selected from hydrogen, 2-fluorophenyl or carbocyclyl;

R^{13} is a group of formula (IB) (as depicted above);

R^{14} is hydrogen;

R^{15} is hydrogen;

R^{17} is pentyl substituted by 5 hydroxy; or R^{17} is a group of formula (IC) (as depicted above) wherein:

R^{18} is selected from hydrogen;

R^{19} is selected from hydrogen;

R^{20} is pentyl substituted by 5 hydroxy;

p is 1;

q is 0;

r is 0;

m is 0;

n is 1; and

z is 1;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, solvate of such a salt or a prodrug thereof.

12. A compound of formula (I) selected from:

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(+/-)-trans-1,1-dioxo-3-ethyl-3-butyl-5-phenyl-7-methylthio-8-(*N*-{(R)-α-[*N'*-(2-(S)-3-(R)-4-(R)-5-(R)-2,3,4,5,6-pentahydroxyhexyl)carbamoyl]benzyl}carbamoylmethoxy)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1,4-benzothiazepine;

(+/-)-trans-1,1-dioxo-3-ethyl-3-butyl-5-phenyl-7-methylthio-8-(*N*-{(R)-α-[*N'*-(2-(S)-3-(R)-4-(R)-5-(R)-2,3,4,5,6-pentahydroxyhexyl)carbamoyl]benzyl}carbamoylmethoxy)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1,4-benzothiazepine;

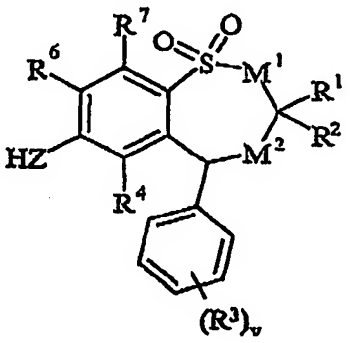
1,1-dioxo-3-ethyl-3-butyl-4-hydroxy-5-phenyl-7-(*N*-{α-[*N'*-(2-(S)-3-(R)-4-(R)-5-(R)-2,3,4,5,6-pentahydroxyhexyl)carbamoyl]-2-fluorobenzyl}carbamoylmethylthio)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydrobenzothiepine; or

1,1-dioxo-3-butyl-3-ethyl-4-hydroxy-5-phenyl-7-(*N*-{1-[*N'*-(2-(S)-3-(R)-4-(R)-5-(R)-2,3,4,5,6-pentahydroxyhexyl)carbamoyl]-1-(cyclohexyl)methyl}carbamoylmethylthio)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydrobenzothiepine;

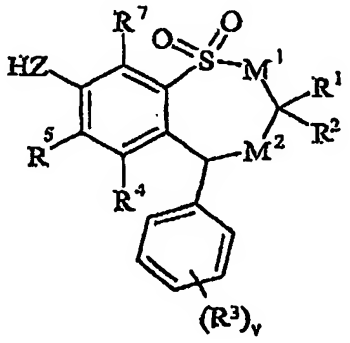
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, solvate of such a salt or a prodrug thereof.

13. A process for preparing a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, solvate of such a salt or a prodrug thereof, as claimed in anyone of claims 1-12, which process (wherein variable groups are, unless otherwise specified, as defined in claim 1) comprises of:

Process 1): for compounds of formula (I) wherein Z is -O-,-NR^3 or -S-; reacting a compound of formula (IIa) or (IIb):



(IIa)



(IIb)

with a compound of formula (III):

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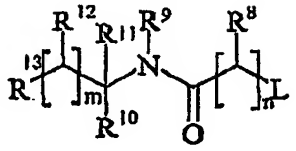
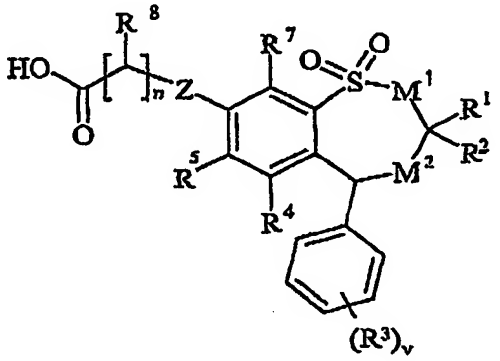


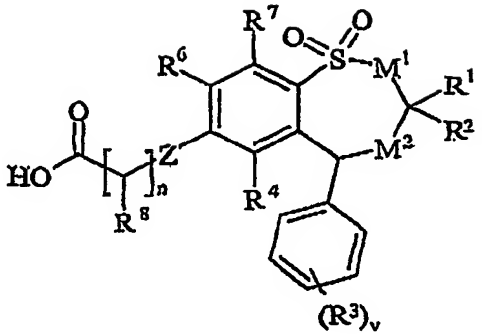
(III)

wherein L is a displaceable group;

Process 2): reacting an acid of formula (IVa) or (IVb):

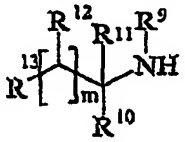


(IVa)



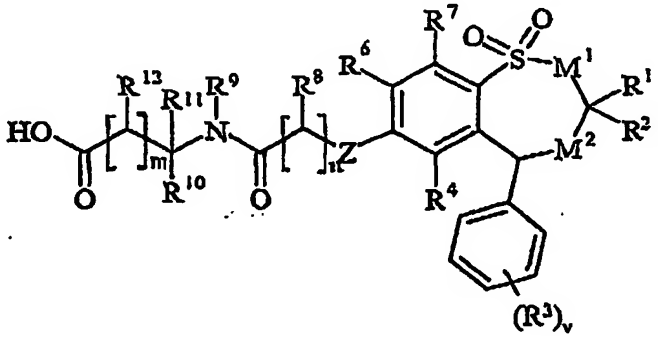
(IVb)

or an activated derivative thereof; with an amine of formula (V):



(V);

Process 3): for compounds of formula (I) wherein R^{13} is a group of formula (IB); reacting an acid of formula (VIa):



(VIa)

or (VIb):

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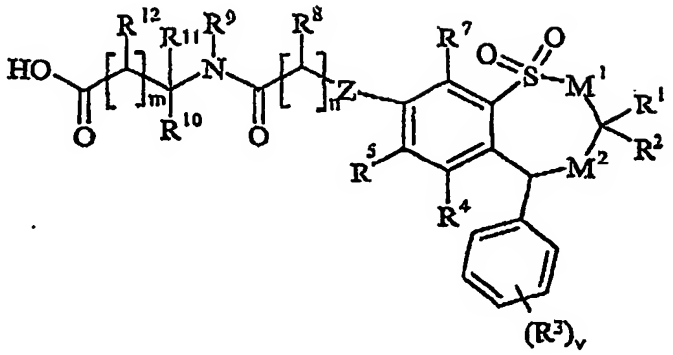
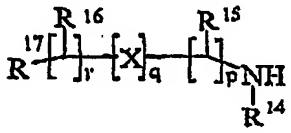


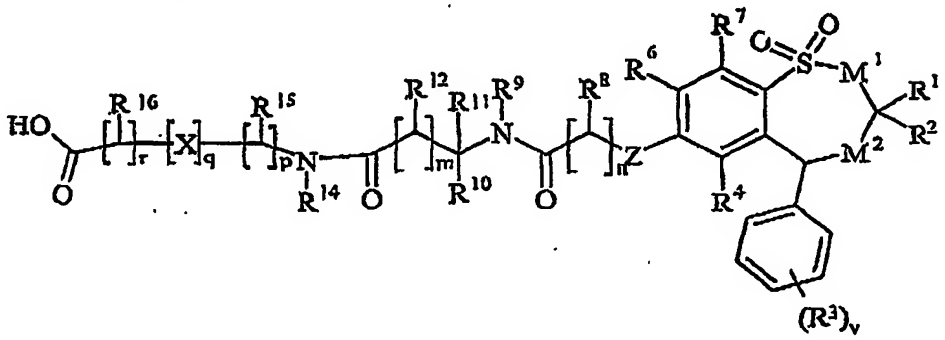
(VIb)

with an amine of formula:



(VI)

Process 4): for compounds of formula **(I)** wherein R^{13} is a group of formula **(IB)** and R^{17} is a group of formula **(IC)**; reacting an acid of formula **(VIIIa)**:



(VIIIa)

or (VIIIb)

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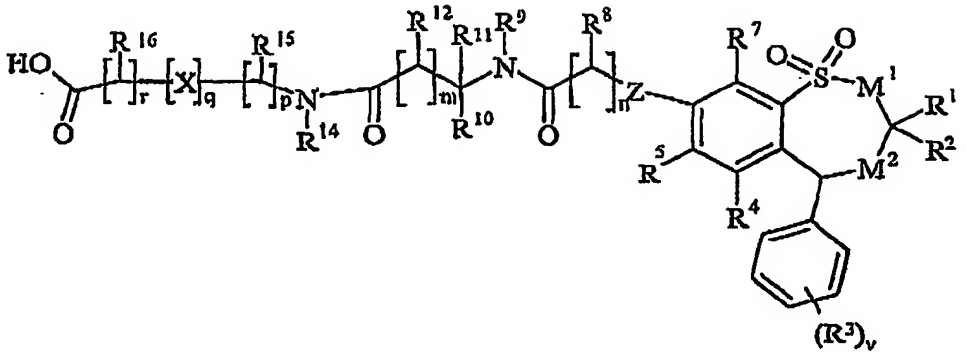
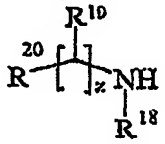


(VIIIb)

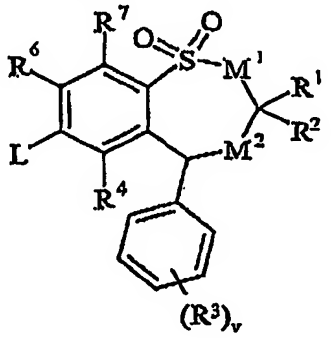
or an activated derivative thereof; with an amine of formula (IX):



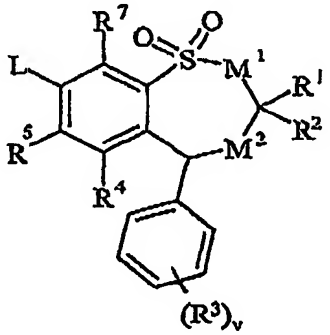
(IX)

or

Process 5) for compounds of formula (I) wherein one of R^5 and R^6 are independently selected from C_{1-6}alkylthio optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R^{25}; reacting a compound of formula (Xa) or (Xb):



(Xa)



(Xb)

wherein L is a displaceable group; with a thiol of formula (XI):

R^m-H

(XI)

wherein R^m is C_{1-6}alkylthio optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R^{25};

and thereafter if necessary or desirable:

i) converting a compound of the formula (I) into another compound of the formula (I);

ii) removing any protecting groups;

iii) forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, solvate of such a salt or a prodrug.

14. A compound of the formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, solvate of such a salt or a prodrug thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 12 for use as a medicament.

15. A compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, solvate of such a salt or a prodrug thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 12 for use in a method of prophylactic or therapeutic treatment of a warm-blooded animal, such as man.

16. The use of a compound of the formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, solvate of such a salt or a prodrug thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 12 in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the production of an IBAT inhibitory effect in a warm-blooded animal, such as man.

17. A method for producing an IBAT inhibitory effect in a warm-blooded animal, such as man, in need of such treatment which comprises administering to said animal an effective amount of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, solvate of such a salt or a prodrug thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 12.

18. A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, solvate of such a salt or a prodrug thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 12, in association with a pharmaceutically-acceptable diluent or carrier.

19. A combination comprising a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, solvate of such a salt or a prodrug thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 12, and an HMG Co-A reductase inhibitor, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, solvate of such a salt or a prodrug thereof.

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20. A combination comprising a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, solvate of such a salt or a prodrug thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 12, and a bile acid binder.

21. A combination comprising a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, solvate of such a salt or a prodrug thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 12, and an HMG Co-A reductase inhibitor, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, solvate of such a salt or a prodrug thereof, and a bile acid binder.

22. A combination according to claim 19 or claim 21 wherein the HMG Co-A reductase inhibitor is atorvastatin, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, solvate of such a salt or a prodrug thereof.

23. A combination according to claim 19 or claim 21 wherein the HMG Co-A reductase inhibitor is rosuvastatin, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

24. A combination comprising a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, solvate of such a salt or a prodrug thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 12 and a PPAR alpha and/or gamma agonist, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

25. A composition according to claim 24 wherein the PPAR alpha and/or gamma agonist is (S)-2-ethoxy-3-[4-(2-{4-methanesulphonyloxyphenyl}ethoxy)phenyl]propanoic acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.